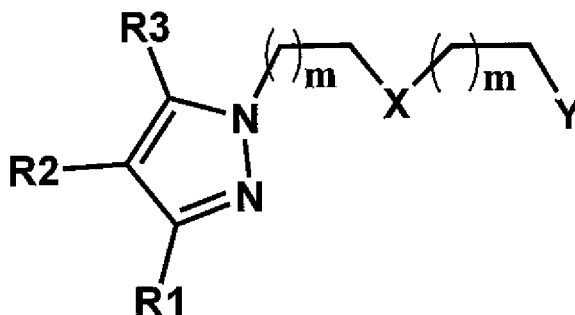


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replace all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1;

$X$  is  $NR_4$  or  $S$ ;

$Y$  is  $SR_5$ ,  $NHR_5$  or  $P(R_5)_2$ ;

$R_1$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$R_2$  is  $COOH$ ,  $NHR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ ;

$R_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$

$R_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

2. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkyl is a  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl.

3. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkyl is methyl, ethyl,  $n$ -propyl, isopropyl,  $n$ -butyl, isobutyl,  $s$ -butyl,  $t$ -butyl,  $n$ -pentyl, isopentyl,

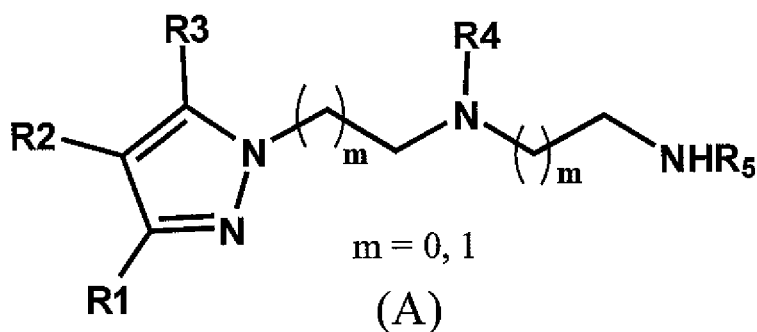
neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

4. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aryl is monocyclic or polycyclic, C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>, and optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from alkyl, carboxy, oxo, amino, alkoxy and aldehyde.

5. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 4, wherein the aryl is phenyl or benzyl.

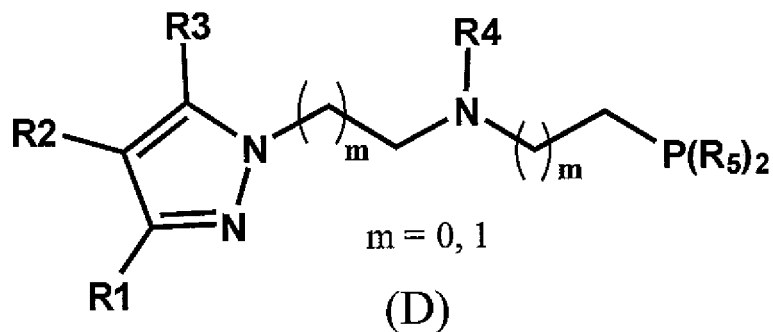
6. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein *n* is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

7. (Original) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-polyamine of the general formula:



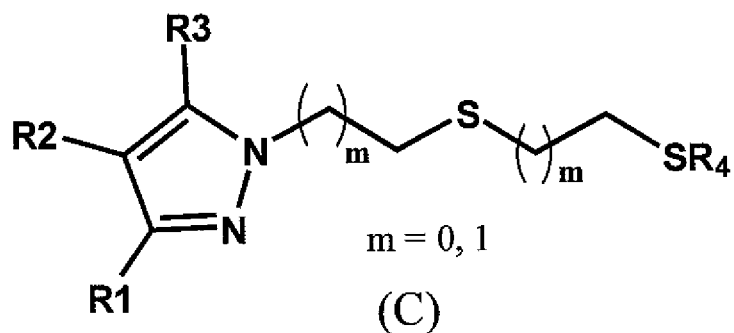
wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are as defined in claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-aminothioether of the general formula:



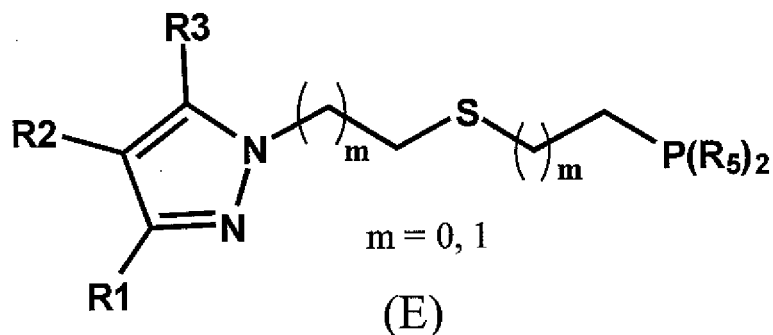
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

9. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-polythioether of the general formula:



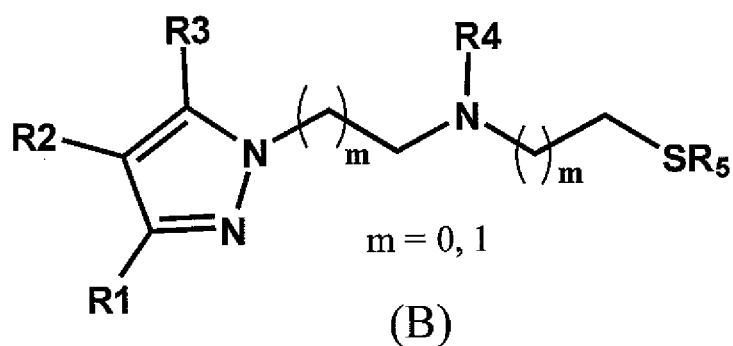
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-aminophosphine of the general formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a pyrazolyl-thioetherphosphine of the general formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X and Y are N,  $R_6$  is H,  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

13. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X and Y are S,  $R_6$  is H,  $C_1$  alkyl,  $C_2$  alkyl,  $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_4$  alkyl,  $C_5$  alkyl or  $C_6$  alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

14. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is N, Y is S, R<sub>6</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

15. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is S, Y is N, R<sub>6</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

16. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is S, Y is P(R<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

17. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is N, Y is P(R<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or a biomolecule.

18. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sub>6</sub> is a biomolecule.

19. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 18, wherein the biomolecule is selected from amino acids, peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, and sugars.

20. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim [[19]]18, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and ligands of tumor receptors.

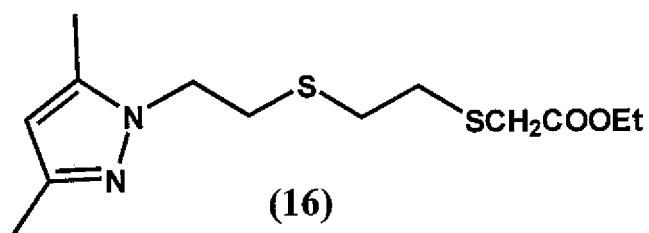
21. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim [[19]]18, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of CCK, thioglucose, glucosamine, somatostatin, neurotensin, bombesin, ~~CCK~~, annexin,

interleukins, growth factors, steroid hormones and molecules binding to GPIIb/IIIa receptors.

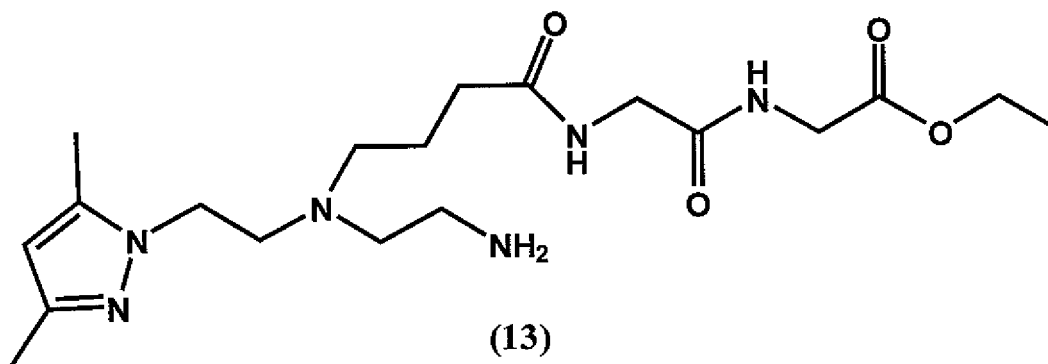
22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim [[19]]18, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of glucose, thioglucose, and neurotransmitters.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent as claimed in claim [[19]]18, wherein the biomolecule is an inhibitor of the tyrosine kinase activity.

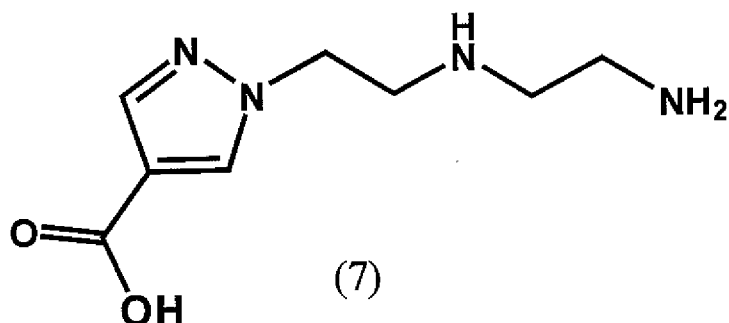
24. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:



25. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:

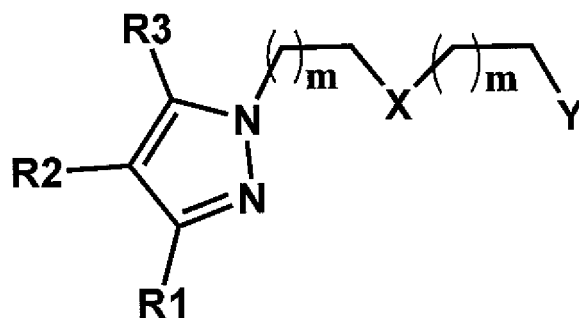


26. (Withdrawn) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, which agent is a compound of the following formula:



27 - 35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1;

$\text{X}$  is  $\text{NR}_4$  or  $\text{S}$ ;

$\text{Y}$  is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_5$  or  $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

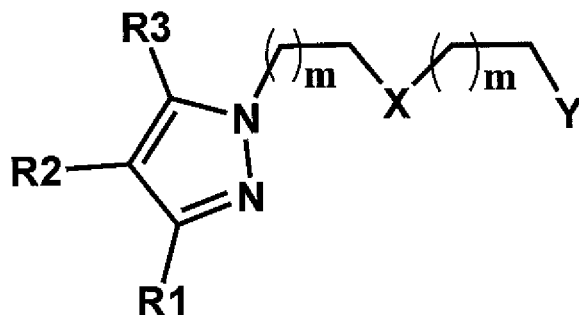
$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl;

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10[.]; and

wherein at least one of  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_4$ ,  $\text{R}_5$ , and  $\text{R}_6$  is phenyl or benzyl.

37. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1 ;

X is  $\text{NR}_4$  or S;

Y is  $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is H, COOH,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

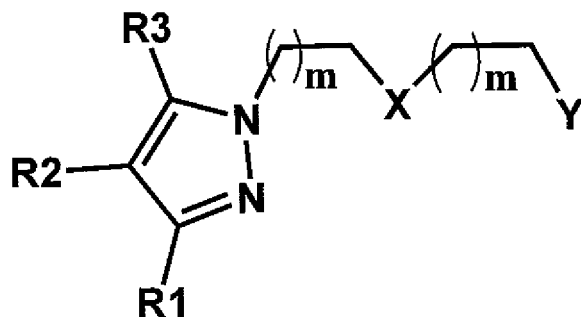
$\text{R}_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$

$\text{R}_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

38. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1 ;

X is  $\text{NR}_4$  or S;



Y is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_5$  or  $\text{P(R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl,

wherein at least one of  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  is aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

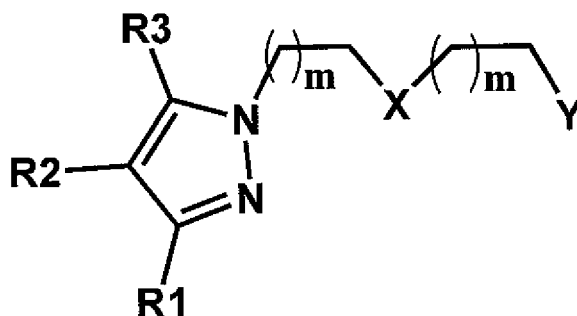
$\text{R}_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$

$\text{R}_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

39. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1 ;

X is  $\text{NR}_4$ ;

Y is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_5$  or  $\text{P(R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl,

$\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

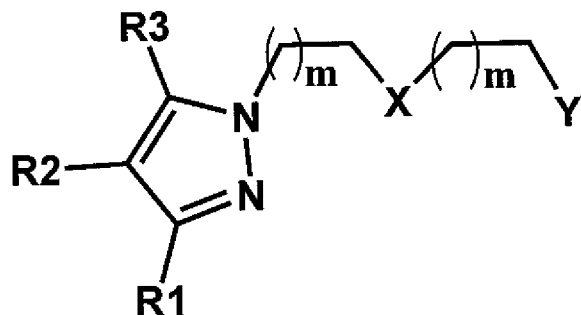
$\text{R}_4$  is alkyl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$

$\text{R}_6$  is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

40. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1 ;

$X$  is  $NR_4$  or  $S$ ;

$Y$  is  $SR_5$ ,  $NHR_5$  or  $P(R_5)_2$ ;

$R_1$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and are selected from  $H$ , alkyl or aryl,

$R_2$  is  $H$ ,  $COOH$ ,  $NHR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ ;

$R_4$  is  $H$ , alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_5$  is  $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$  or  $(CH_2)_nOR_6$ ;

$R_6$  is  $H$ , a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

41. (New) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chelating agent is bound to a metal center.

42. (New) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 41, wherein the metal center comprises rhenium or  $^{99m}$ technetium.

43. (New) A metal complex comprising the chelating agent of claim 36.